

**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR BELL-CARTER OLIVE COMPANY,
SURFACE IMPOUNDMENT CLOSURE AND POST-CLOSURE MAINTENANCE, ORANGE
COVE, Fresno County**

**BELL-CARTER OLIVE COMPANY, SURFACE IMPOUNDMENT CLOSURE AND POST-
CLOSURE MAINTENANCE, ORANGE COVE, Fresno County**

The Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Bell-Carter Olive Company closure of the surface impoundment was prepared in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15063. An initial study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration were submitted to all known interested persons and the State Clearinghouse for a review period that ended 30 June 2005. No comments were received.

The Discharger owns property approximately one mile southwest of Orange Cove that contains an inactive surface impoundment covering approximately 2 acres. Olive brine wastewater discharge to the surface impoundment began in 1977 and became inactive in 1985. Results of site hydrogeologic investigations indicate that brine wastewater migrated from the impoundment, impacting the underlying soil and groundwater. The Discharger has proposed to close the surface impoundment using an engineered alternative final cover system, substituting a flexible membrane liner for the compacted clay layer of the prescriptive cover design and an asphalt layer as the erosion-resistant layer. This Order requires the Discharger to complete the Evaluation Monitoring Program and final closure in accordance with a time schedule contained in the Order. The waste discharge requirements implement Title 27 regulations for closure and the post-closure maintenance and monitoring of the facility.

The proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) require the capping of the surface impoundment. Compliance with the WDRs and the Monitoring and Reporting Program should preclude further groundwater degradation and mitigate potentially significant impacts to groundwater and any potential human health hazard. (TAF)